

REMARKS

Claims 24-45 are pending and rejected in this application. The specification and claims 24, 34, 36, 37, 43 and 44 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the objection to the disclosure, Applicants have amended the specification to insert a reference to the parent case and that the parent case is now abandoned. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the specification is now in allowable form.

Responsive to the objection to claims 34 and 36 due to informalities, Applicants have amended claims 34 and 36 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 34 and 36 are now in allowable form and respectfully request that the objection thereto be withdrawn.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 24-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph with an indication that the specification is enabling but does not provide for an enablement for application using forms of applicators other than curtain coating applicators, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that claims 24-36 are in condition for allowance. Applicants are required to disclose in the specification an enabling embodiment of the invention, which the Examiner has indicated has been done and there is no requirement that each and every limitation provided in the specification be reflected in the claims. Since the method of the present invention can be carried out with curtain applicators, which is shown in the figures and disclosed in the specification, Applicants have met their requirement to provide a specification that has a written description of the invention, which provides the manner and process of making and using the invention in a best mode embodiment. Further, Applicants submit that there is no requirement for Applicants to disclose other forms of applying an application medium other than the best mode that is disclosed

in the specification. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 24-36 are in condition for allowance, for the reasons stated above, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 34, 43 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claims 34, 43 and 44 to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded by Applicants as the invention. Specifically claim 34 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the term first curtain applicator unit. Further, claims 43 and 44 were each amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention, by positively reciting the graphic paper and cardboard. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 34, 43 and 44 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 24-34, 36-38 and 41-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,230,743 (Nakamura et al.), Applicants have amended claim 24 and submit that claims 24-34, 36-38 and 41-45 are now in condition for allowance.

Nakamura et al. disclose a process for producing pressure sensitive copying paper (Figs. 3 and 4) using coating solution 1 containing microcapsules as a main component. A wind shielding plate 11 is placed upstream of the contact area so that the free fall of the material reaches web 9 without being disturbed (column 4, lines 8-55). The coating apparatus shown in Fig. 4 has a first coating apparatus and a second coating apparatus positioned subsequent to the first coating apparatus in the direction of flow of web 9. Web 9 goes through a first curtain and a second curtain flow as it proceeds in the direction of the arrow shown on web 9 of Fig. 4. The second coating layer is formed on the first coating layer while the first coating layer is in an undried state (column 7, lines 1-50).

In contrast, claim 24, as amended, recites in part:

forming a pressure differential in a space between said first curtain and said second curtain, said pressure differential being relative to an ambient atmospheric pressure.

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Nakamura et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and include distinct advantages thereover.

Nakamura et al. disclose a process for producing pressure sensitive copying paper including a coating solution that contains microcapsules of a main component. However, Nakamura et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest a pressure differential space between a first and second curtain of falling media. While Nakamura et al. does show two curtain applicators in Fig. 4, the space is unbounded and a pressure differential from the ambient atmospheric pressure between the two curtains would not be possible to achieve. Therefore, Nakamura et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the step of forming a pressure differential in a space between a first curtain and a second curtain, the pressure differential being relative to the ambient atmospheric pressure, as recited in claim 24.

Applicants' invention has distinct advantages in that a vacuum or a positive pressure is provided between the first and second curtains. If a vacuum is produced, the separation of the first application medium curtain from a guide doctor is accomplished. Further, the wetting of the top coat on a pre-coat is improved. The use of a positive pressure between the first and second curtains causes the pre-coat to be anchored in a superior manner on the moving material web and both curtains are stabilized, with the positive pressure reducing the tendency for the material to flutter. For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 24, and claims 25-34, 36-38 and 41-45 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 35 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,192,592 (Shay). However, claim 35 depends from claim 24, and claim 24 has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 35 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 39 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,632,374 (Greiller). However, claim 39 depends from claim 24, and claim 24 has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 39 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 40 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,136,970 (Saito et al.). However, claim 40 depends from claim 24, and claim 24 has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 40 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

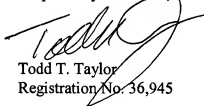
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally

petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095,
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Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to
telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: December 29, 2005.

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Date